

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

providing , via a patient terminal, a case statement template the case statement template having one or more areas to specify clinical and non-clinical requirements of the patient;

transmitting~~receiving~~ case statement information specified in the case statement template over a network, at least a portion of the case statement information ~~which~~ is provided by the patient;

preparing a case statement based on the case statement information;

delivering the case statement to at least one contracting healthcare service provider; and

receiving a response from the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the response including a price, a clinical track record, and service information.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising reviewing the response~~proposal~~ from the at least one healthcare service provider.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein reviewing the response~~proposal~~ from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the response~~proposal~~ with a referring physician.
8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response~~proposal~~ includes information concerning the total cost of a medical procedure.
9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to the responding healthcare service provider.
10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to a marketplace operator and sending a remaining amount to the responding healthcare service provider.
11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein preparing a case statement from case statement information includes filtering unique identifying information.
12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising scheduling an outpatient visit with the patient and a staff member of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider.
13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the price is a not-to-exceed amount.
14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the price includes the ~~combined~~ charges of a facility of the at least contracting healthcare service provider and charges of the principal professionals performing the healthcare services.
15. (Currently Amended) A system of selling healthcare services, the system comprising:

a database of contracting healthcare service providers;

a healthcare case statement information submission mechanism configured to provide a case statement template including areas for a patient's clinical and non-clinical requirements and to transmit case statement information over a network;

a case statement engine configured to generate case statements based on the case statement information;

a healthcare case statement distribution engine to deliver case statements to healthcare service providers;

a proposal construction engine including clinical quality indicator areas; and

a response-receiving engine to receive responses from healthcare service providers and to deliver the responses to the patient.

16. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a database of patients.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the response-receiving~~response reviewing~~ engine checks responses for clinical quality indicators.

18. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

19. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

20. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one particular response.

21. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a referring physician template.

22. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a contact mechanism including a number of input mechanisms to construct a message.

23. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the proposal construction engine checks responses for a price of healthcare services listed therein.

24. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a billing module.

25. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one patient terminal coupled to the healthcare case statement distribution engine.

26. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one service provider terminal coupled to the healthcare case statement distribution engine.

27. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the healthcare case statement submission mechanism; the healthcare case statement distribution engine; the proposal construction engine; and the response-receiving engine are located on a server.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

providing a case statement template having one or more areas to specify clinical and non-clinical requirements of the patient;

~~transmitting~~~~extracting~~ case statement information, at least a portion of which is provided by the patient, from the case statement template over a network;

preparing a case statement based on the case statement information;

establishing case statement profile criteria for each of the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

making the case statement available to each contracting healthcare service provider whose profile criteria matches the case statement; and

receiving a response to the case statement from at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the response including a price, a clinical track record, and non-clinical information.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.

30. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

31. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

32. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.

33. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising reviewing the response~~proposal~~ from the at least one healthcare service provider.

34. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein reviewing the response~~proposal~~ from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the response~~proposal~~ with a referring physician.